

FACTS ON ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

1. The **Siboneys** were the first to occupy Antigua & Barbuda in 2400 B.C.
2. The **Arawaks** succeeded the Siboneys.
3. In **1493, Christopher Columbus** arrived in Antigua and named it Antigua after the Church of Santa Maria de la Antigua in Seville, Spain.
4. Antigua was turned into a sugar-producing island. Slaves were imported from African countries until **1st August, 1834**, when slavery was abolished.
5. Antigua, Barbuda and Redonda form the independent nation of Antigua and Barbuda. Antigua is **108 sq. miles**, Barbuda is **62 sq. miles** and Redonda is **.6 sq. miles**.
6. The capital of Antigua is **St. John's**.
7. **Codrington** is the only village in Barbuda, and it was named after **Christopher Codrington**, who in 1685, leased the island for 185 years.
8. **Historical Sites in Barbuda**
 - (a) **Martello Tower** (or River Fort) – a look-out post that was built to defend the main anchorage.
 - (b) **Highland House** (“Willybob”) – a house built by the Codrington family sometime after 1720 on the highlands of Barbuda
9. **Frigate Bird Sanctuary** – one of the world’s largest nesting colonies of the frigate bird (Man-o’-War).
10. The currency of Antigua and Barbuda is the **Eastern Caribbean Dollar**.
11. The **Head of State** is **King Charles III**, represented by the **Governor General** who is currently **His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams**.
12. The **head of government** is the **Prime Minister** who is currently the **Hon. Gaston Browne**. He is also the **Minister of Finance and Corporate Governance and Public Private Partnership**.
13. There are six parishes in Antigua. They are **St. John, St. George, St. Peter, St. Philip, St. Paul** and **St. Mary**. **St. John** is the **largest parish**. **St. George** is the **smallest parish**. **St. John** has the **largest population**, but **St. Philip** has the **smallest population**.
14. Antigua has **365 beaches**.
15. There are **3 types of soil** that can be found in Antigua. **Volcanic soil** can be found in the **southern part** of the island; **clay soil** in the **middle/central plain** and **limestone** on the **eastern side** of the island. Barbuda only has **limestone soil** as the island was formed from coral reefs.
16. The **Hon. E. P. Chet Greene** is the **Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs**.
17. The **Hon. Maria Browne** is the **Minister of Housing, Works, Land and Urban Renewal**.
18. The **Hon. Melford Nicholas** is the **Minister of Information, Communication Technologies, Information, Utilities and Energy**.
19. The main industry is **tourism**. The **Hon. Charles Fernandez** is the **Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment**.
20. The **Sir. Molwyn Joseph** is the **Minister of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment**.
21. The **Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Public Safety, Immigration and Labour** is **Hon. Steadroy Benjamin**.
22. The highest hill in Antigua is Boggy Peak (sometimes called **Mount Obama**). It is 1,319ft. high.
23. Antigua gained independence on **1st November, 1981**. The theme for our **42nd** independence celebrations is **“Embracing the Legacy, Shaping the Future.”**
24. The flag was designed by **Sir Reginald Samuel**.

25. The colours are symbolic.
- Red** symbolizes the **dynamism of the people**.
- Black** symbolizes the **soil and our African heritage**.
- Blue** symbolizes **hope**.
- Gold, Blue & White** symbolize the **sun, sea and sand**.
- The “**V**” is a symbol of **victory**.
26. The words of the **National Anthem** were written by **Sir Novelle Richards**.
27. The **Hon. Daryll Matthew** is **Minister for Education, Creative Industries and Sports**.
28. The University of the West Indies in Antigua and Barbuda is known as the “**Five Islands Campus**.”
29. The music of the **National Anthem** was composed by **Walter P. Chambers**.
30. The **National Coat of Arms** was designed by **Gordon Christopher**.



31. **National Heroes**

- (a) **Prince Klaas**, also known as **King Court** or **Kwaku Takyi**, is a former slave who organized the **1736 slave rebellion** which sought to free all slaves on the island. However, the plot was not successful, and he was executed on 20th October, 1736. A monument stands on Independence Drive in honour of him.
- (b) **Dame Georgiana “Nellie” Robinson** founded the **TOR Memorial School**. She is the nation’s only female national hero.
- (c) **Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Snr.** is hailed as the “**Father of the Nation**”. He became the **first chief minister in 1960**, the **first premier in 1967** and the **first prime minister on 1st November, 1981**. He died in 1999 and was the first to be buried in the National Heroes Park at Tomlinsons. **Monuments of him can be found outside the General Post Office and the Public Market Complex**.
- (d) **Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards** was knighted for his contribution to cricket. The Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium was named in his honour. He is the only living national hero.
- (e) **Sir George Herbert Walters** served as the second premier of Antigua and Barbuda, from 1972 – 1976. He was the leader of the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM).
- (f) **Hon. Sir Lester Bryant Bird** was named Antigua and Barbuda’s sixth national hero in November of 2014. He has served as the second Prime Minister of the country from 1994 – 2004. The Mt St. John Medical Centre was **renamed Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John’s Medical Centre in his honour**. He died on August 9, 2021.



32. The national dish is **fungi and pepperpot**.
33. The national sea creature is the **Hawksbill Turtle**.
34. The national animal is the European **Fallow Deer**. It can be found in Barbuda and on **Guiana Island**.
35. The national flower is the **dagger log**.
36. The national fruit is the Antigua “**Black**” **Pineapple**. **Antigua Black Pineapple is grown at Cades Bay**.
37. The national historic symbol is the **Sugar Mill Tower**.
38. The **national dress** was designed by **Heather Doram**.
39. **Antiguan folk pottery** dates back at least to the early 18th century, when slaves fashioned cooking vessels from local clay. **Sea View Farm Village** is the centre of this industry.

40. In 1784, Admiral Horatio Nelson sailed to Antigua and established Great Britain's most important Caribbean base. **Nelson's Dockyard has been completely restored, and it is now the only Georgian dockyard in the world. In 2016, it was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.**
41. **Freetown and Liberta:** These villages were named to commemorate freedom, after emancipation in 1834.
42. **Betty's Hope** is located in the limestone district of Antigua's tranquil rural area. **The founder of Betty's Hope was Governor Keynell.**
43. **Bethesda Primary School** was the very first school in the West Indies to provide education for the Negro slaves since 1813.
44. **Bethesda Tamarind Tree** --This landmark is one of the most important trees in Antiguan history. Antigua, a colony renowned for its sugar production, was controlled by a number of wealthy magnates. In 1951, the workers on the Antigua Sugar Estates had been on strike for three months when the wealthy employer **Mr. Moody-Stuart called a meeting beneath the Bethesda Tamarind Tree.** On Jan. 2nd, 1952 the workers received the 25% increase they requested.
45. Antiguan proverbs are stemmed from West Africa. These are often used as teaching tools. Here are a few and their possible meanings:
 - a. *Cockroach na ha no right in a fowl house.*
_Stay away from known danger.
 - b. *Ä no wantin tongue mek cattle can't talk.*
_It's sometimes wisest to keep one's mouth shut.
 - c. *Moon run faas but day ketch im.*
-Your actions and misdeeds will eventually have consequences.
 - d. *One-one mango full up basket.*
-Perseverance is the key to success.
 - e. *Waste not want not*
-use things wisely and economically.
46. Antigua is known as **Waladli** or **Wadadli** by the native population. The Amerindian name for Barbuda was "**Wa'omoni**"
47. These appliances were once popular in Antigua and Barbuda.



Coalpot-a cooking device using charcoal



Ice cream maker -a device used for making ice cream



The "**Goose**"-a type of flat iron with a goose-like curve in its neck used in the past to iron clothes.



The sad iron-a device used to iron clothes.



A **Wash board**-a device used for washing clothes.



Iron comb-a device used to straighten hair



Pit latrine –a toilet (a septic bowl)

48. Cultural drinks in Antigua.



Sorrel juice (served especially at Christmas time)



Tamarind “Tambran” juice



Lemonade



Ginger beer

